

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF SPORT FISH STREAM SURVEY SUMMARY

102-70-58  
102-70-10580

STREAM THORNE RIVER

MAP REF. Craig C-2, C-3, D-3 LAT. 55°42' N LOC. Prince of Wales Island  
 41' 50" 27"  
 LONG. 132°35' W  
 TRIBUTARY TO Thorne Bay MAIN DRAINAGE Thorne River  
 ORIGIN Mountains and lakes nw of Thorne Bay LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ WATERSHED AREA \_\_\_\_\_

1. FLOW sluggish  
 RANGE \_\_\_\_\_ cfs VELOCITY to rapid AVG. WIDTH 125 ft. AVG. DEPTH 20"  
 FLOOD HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR/TURBIDITY brown/slightly turbid
2. ACCESSIBILITY Lower five miles paralleled by Thorne Bay Road, 2-3 miles of river above accessible by shallow draft canoe/boat.
3. ACCESS STATUS South Tongass National Forest
4. SECTION SURVEYED Lower seven miles.  
 TRIBUTARIES see supplementary data sheet.
5. BOTTOM TYPE Rubble 40%, gravel 30%, sand 10%, silt 20%, and occasional bedrock STREAM GRADIENT \_\_\_\_\_ %  
out croppings.
6. POOLS - DESCRIPTION & FREQUENCY Excellent pools throughout. Freq. 50%. Large pools often a half mile long, 2-3 ft. deep are common. Some are rubble (gravel bottomed, others are silt and abundant vegetation is often common in both bottom types.)
7. BARRIERS None in section surveyed.
8. SPAWING AREA Good spawning facilities are present, especially in the lower mile and above six miles. Tributaries contribute greatly to spawning area.
9. BANK COVER Open to partially shaded, open muskeg banks of rushes and sedges are common. The rest of the bank cover is partially shaded by hemlock (cont)
10. WATERSHED TYPE Spruce-hemlock coastal forest with large muskeg areas in low flat valley. The head is in low rolling mountains with lakes, some muskegs  
Sticklebacks and cottids (cont)
11. FISH SPECIES Sockeye, pink, chum, coho salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead.
12. FISHING HISTORY This river is well known as one of the best in Southeast. In the past sport fishing was limited to fly-in and lumber camp and Forest (cont)
13. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Service personnel. The intensity will undoubtedly increase with the opening of the road to the public and the scheduled ferry service to Hollis.
14. INVERTEBRATES  
 ABUNDANCE Sparse where surbers taken, but more abundant in grab sample areas.
15. AQUATIC VEGETATION Abundant and diverse, higher plants; rushes, sedges, yellow pond lilly, sparse to abundant mosses (Fontinalis antipyretica)  
common. Green filamentous algae common.
16. WATER USE Some of tributary waters are pumped into trucks used to water the hauling road.
17. POLLUTION Outside the mouth rafted logs and sewage from Thorne Bay affects the estuary area.
18. REMARKS This river is known as one of the best in Southeast and has much to offer in sport fish potential. Easy access to many fishing holes may be had from the road, and opportunities for boating also exist. This river-lake system offers excellent potential and is being considered for a scenic rivers, wilderness canoe area.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

NAME THORNE RIVERLOCATION Prince of Wales Is.

9. BANK COVER spruce, salmonberry, alder, and devils club.  
10. WATERSHED and extensive logging in some areas.

TRIBUTARIES

Gravel Creek - mile 3.8 on Thorne Bay road.

Water rusty brown, flow rapid. Average width 35 ft., average depth 6 ft. Bottom - rubble 50%, gravel 30%, sand 20%.

Spawning area - some good spawning facilities, fingerlings abundant in lower stream. It is reported the upper stream is quite unstable and unsuitable for spawning due to movements of bottom. Many small pools are formed by deadfall timber. The banks are partially shaded with red alder, spruce-hemlock, and salmonberry. The watershed is low rolling mountains north of Thorne River much of which has been clearcut in the upper reaches. Brown algae is common as are invertebrates. A campground is present at the confluence with Thorne River. DV, SS, CT, and sculpin caught in traps.

Falls Creek - mile 4.5 on Thorne Bay road.

A rapid, small creek. Average width 25 ft., average depth 2". The bottom is mostly gravel 50%, rubble 40%, sand 10% with occasional bedrock outcroppings. The bottom looks excellent for spawning but shallowness may be limiting in much of the stream. A log jam exists approximately 100 yds. above the bridge that could be an impassable barrier to spawning fish. Brown algae is common. SS, DV, and sculpin were caught in minnow traps in this stream.

Goose Creek - mile 6.7.

Originates at Angel Lake approximately 1 mile from its confluence with Thorne River. Flow is sluggish to rapid; the water, a brown color. The creek has an average width 60 ft., average depth 5 inches. The bottom is rubble 40%, gravel 50%, boulders 5%, sand 5%. This appears to be an excellent spawning stream; many humpies were present. The aquatic vegetation consisted of higher plants, mosses, and algae common throughout.

BY Short-BehrDATE August 20, 1973

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## SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

NAME THORNE RIVERLOCATION Prince of Wales Is.TRIBUTARIES cont.

## Rio Beaver - mile 11.0.

Only examined near road approximately 1 1/2 mile up from entry to Thorne River. It is fairly rapid flow, average width 55 ft, average depth 9 inches. Bottom is gravel 50%, rubble 30%, boulders 10%, sand 10%, and looks suitable for spawning but no salmon were seen. Some fingerlings were seen in the pools, that were to 3-4 ft. deep formed by log jams or scouring.

## Rio Roberts - mile 13.3.

Quite rapid flowing; water a deep brown color. Bottom - bedrock 30%, boulders 20%, rubble 30%, sand 10%, gravel 10%. Steep gradient with small pools and falls.

## Control Creek - mile 17.2.

Connects Control Lake and Balls Lake. Good spawning stream with sockeye present. 35 ft. wide, 10 inches deep. Gravel 70%, rubble 20%, and sand 10%.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

NAME THORNE RIVERLOCATION Prince of Wales Is.

Time 4 p.m.

Sky partly cloudy

Wind calm

Air °C 12

Water °C 12

pH 6.6

CO<sub>2</sub> 5 mg/l

DO 11 mg/l

Tot. alkalinity 34.2 mg/l CaCO<sub>3</sub>Tot. hardness 34.2 mg/l CaCO<sub>3</sub>MINNOW TRAPS 5 trap hours, Gravel Creek

DV (cm)	SS	CT	Sculpin
14.0	10.3	7.4	10.1
14.5	9.5	9.0	13.9
13.8	9.0	9.0	14.4
	9.2	6.1	
	8.5	5.8	
	8.0	4.7	
	8.5	4.8	
	8.6		
	7.9		
	7.7		

2 trap hours, Falls Creek

SS	DV	Sculpin
7.8	10.5	11.4
5.2		7.9
5.1		

Rod & Reel catch, Thorne R.  
2 man hours

DV	SS
31 cm	71.5 cm
32	58
37	
34	
32	
38	

2 trap hours, Thorne River

DV	SS	Sculpin	Three Spine Stickleback
15.5	11.0	7.1	10.0
14.7	6.9	11.0	9.0
14.3	11.6	6.1	10.5
	11.5	5.6	8.6
	10.7	5.4	10.0
	8.2		7.2
	14.8		
	10.2		
	9.4		

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